

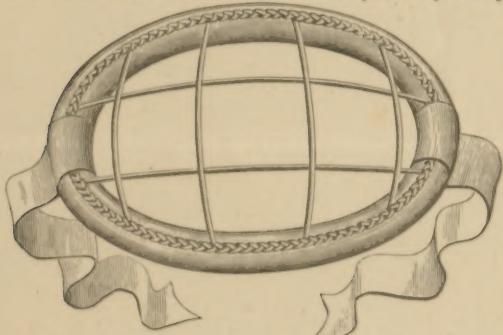
A PROTECTIVE SHIELD FOR THE EYE.

BY LUCIEN HOWE, M. D.

Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, Med. Dep't, Univ. of Buffalo.



The appliance to which I wish to call attention is as simple as it is useful. It consists of nothing more than a wire shield, which, fastened over the eye, prevents any injury to it. This shield is elliptical in form, measuring about three inches long, by two and a half wide. Its strength is of considerable importance, and for this reason it is better to have the wire about an eighth of an inch thick, crossed in wide meshes, and firmly soldered at the points of contact. The whole is bent so as to be convex anteriorly, and with slight adjustment can be fitted to the brow and cheek, so as to rest equally upon these parts, making no pressure upon the bandage which may cover the eye. For the sake of comfort, also, it is advisable to have the circumference well padded and covered with chamois-skin. It is adjusted in place of having a tape attached to each end of the long diameter, and bound around the head. If necessary, for the sake of additional security, still another tape can be attached obliquely, passing upwards over the forehead and downward behind the ear on the opposite side. The whole arrangement is similar to such protective bandages as are sold by some of the instrument-makers for binding over the arm after vaccination. In the general idea there is nothing new, but in its application to ocular surgery I do not think this has received the attention which it deserves. It is especially adapted for protecting eyes



of a child after injury from accident or operation. We all know how difficult it is to prevent such a patient from disturbing the bandage or rubbing the eye violently. In many cases it is necessary to tie the hands to avoid this. But with such a protective shield, the little patient can be al-

lowed the utmost freedom, secure, as we are, that when this is properly adjusted, the eye can receive no injury. It is also useful after operations upon adults; for example, cataract, artificial pupil, or similar procedures which require opening the globe of the eye. In such cases it is not unusual that the patient, by some accidental violence, or even by turning the head suddenly upon the side of the affected eye, so disturbs the bandage or makes pressure upon the globe as to open a wound which might otherwise be healing. A considerable experience has shown it to be of much practical value.